

CONFIDENTIAL: To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows:-

EVENING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 1946.
MORNING PAPERS .. FRIDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1946.

(6)

BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS STATISTICS
AUGUST, 1946.

1. GENERAL

This summary, issued by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson), covers the operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, during the month of August, 1946.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstances, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The rate of benefit per week is 25 shillings for a married person or an unmarried adult, plus 20 shillings for a dependent spouse and 5 shillings if the claimant has the custody, care and control of one or more children under 16 years of age. Thus the maximum benefit is £2.10. 0 per week. For unmarried juveniles the rate of benefit is 15 shillings if under 18 years and 20 shillings if 18 and under 21 years.

A claimant is allowed a certain income without the rate of benefit being affected. Beyond this allowable amount, the rate is reduced by the amount of the excess income.

The numbers of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days' duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of the "means test" excludes another group from benefit.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependents of such beneficiaries are not included.

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services.

Due to delay in the receipt of information in respect of some beneficiaries, the figures are preliminary and subject to revision. This applies particularly to discontinuances and results in persons on benefit at the end of the month being overstated.

2. SUMMARY - CLAIMS ADMITTED, EXITS, PERSONS ON BENEFIT.

The following table shows for each month from July, 1945 to August, 1946, the number of claims admitted and discontinued and beneficiaries remaining on benefit:-

CLAIMS ADMITTED, DISCONTINUANCES AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT
JULY, 1945 TO AUGUST, 1946.

MONTH	UNEMPLOYMENT		SICKNESS		SPECIAL		TOTAL			
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons	
<u>Claims admitted during each month, July 1945 to August 1946 : Australia.</u>										
1945:										
July	..	371	51	3,707	823	5	27	4,083	901	4,984
August	..	221	11	2,517	490	3	21	2,741	522	3,263
September	..	433	33	3,192	608	-	17	3,625	658	4,283
October	..	720	62	2,648	550	3	16	3,371	628	3,999
November	..	1,511	84	2,351	419	6	8	3,868	511	4,379
December	..	39,390	11,019	2,295	489	70	17	41,755	11,525	53,280
1946:										
January	..	5,380	356	2,200	430	13	7	7,593	793	8,386
February	..	3,541	108	2,486	507	9	15	6,036	630	6,666
March	..	3,666	135	3,210	708	11	12	6,887	855	7,742
April	..	3,190	116	2,226	441	4	11	5,420	568	5,988
May	..	2,548	87	2,526	544	-	5	5,074	636	5,710
June	..	2,651	150	2,616	462	1	1	5,268	613	5,881
July	..	3,981	348	3,499	696	20	11	7,500	1,055	8,555
August	..	5,133(a)	1,006(a)	3,156	679	71	21	8,360	1,706	10,066
<u>Discontinuances during each month, July 1945 to August 1946 : Australia.</u>										
1945:										
July	..	105	36	643	93	1	-	749	129	878
August	..	165	10	1,646	284	1	2	1,812	296	2,108
September	..	299	25	2,534	419	2	1	2,835	445	3,280
October	..	387	24	2,218	450	1	2	2,606	476	3,082
November	..	961	33	2,424	508	3	3	3,388	544	3,932
December	..	8,279	3,792	2,236	480	10	3	10,525	4,275	14,800
1946:										
January	..	32,555	7,482	2,180	483	55	11	34,790	7,976	42,766
February	..	3,451	121	2,243	430	8	2	5,702	553	6,255
March	..	3,165	56	3,021	618	14	6	6,200	680	6,880
April	..	2,687	67	2,232	447	5	6	4,924	520	5,444
May	..	1,739	68	2,214	459	3	4	3,956	531	4,487
June	..	1,378	60	2,256	423	2	7	3,636	490	4,126
July	..	3,665	324	2,751	515	14	8	6,430	847	7,277
August	..	4,909(a)	983(a)	2,695	526	55	8	7,659	1,517	9,176
<u>Persons on benefit at end of each month, July 1945 to August 1946 : Australia.</u>										
1945:										
July	..	266	15	3,064	730	4	27	3,334	772	4,106
August	..	322	16	3,935	936	6	46	4,263	998	5,261
September	..	456	24	4,593	1,125	4	62	5,053	1,211	6,264
October	..	789	62	5,023	1,225	6	76	5,818	1,363	7,181
November	..	1,339	113	4,950	1,136	9	81	6,298	1,330	7,628
December	..	32,450	7,340	5,009	1,145	69	95	37,528	8,580	46,108
1946:										
January	..	5,275	214	5,029	1,092	27	91	10,331	1,397	11,728
February	..	5,365	201	5,272	1,169	28	104	10,665	1,474	12,139
March	..	5,866	280	5,461	1,259	25	110	11,352	1,649	13,001
April	..	6,369	329	5,455	1,253	24	115	11,848	1,697	13,545
May	..	7,178	348	5,767	1,338	21	116	12,966	1,802	14,768
June	..	8,451	438	6,127	1,377	20	110	14,598	1,925	16,523
July	..	8,767	462	6,875	1,558	26	113	15,668	2,133	17,801
August	..	8,991	485	7,336	1,711	42	126	16,369	2,322	18,691

(a) Increase is largely due to delayed advices received from Queensland in respect of power rationing cases which should have been admitted and discontinued during July, 1946.

The rise in November, 1945, unemployment figures was due mainly to industrial trouble in the steel industry in New South Wales. Power rationing, arising from a strike in the coal industry, accounted for the sharp rise in December, 1945 and this was confined almost entirely to New South Wales (where the number on benefit increased from 813 at end of November to 30,724 at the end of December, 1945), and South Australia (from 107 to 7,631). Most of these power rationing cases resumed work during January, 1946. Commencing in December, 1945, seasonal unemployment in the sugar and meat industries in Queensland was responsible for most of the rise from January to March, 1946 (the number on unemployment benefit in Queensland increased from 199 at end of November, 1945 to 2,829 at end of March, 1946). Industrial trouble in the meat industry in Queensland from the end of March to early July, 1946, was mainly responsible for the steady rise from April to June, 1946 (the number on unemployment benefit in Queensland reached 4,223 at the end of June, 1946) although unfavourable conditions in Western Australia culminating in breakdown of power plant contributed to a lesser extent (the number on unemployment benefit in Western Australia reached 1,854 at the end of June, 1946).

3. BENEFITS PAID.

The benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during August, 1946 and the two months ended August, 1946, are shown in the following table:-

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID DURING AUGUST, 1946 AND TWO MONTHS
ENDED AUGUST, 1946 : STATES.

State	Benefits paid during August, 1946				Benefits paid during two months ended August, 1946			
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total
N.S.W.(a)	£. 12,452	£. 22,116	£. 223	£. 34,791	£. 22,465	£. 40,305	£. 389	£. 63,159
VIC.	6,098	14,156	165	20,419	10,209	26,519	315	37,043
QLD.	32,290	9,094	297	41,681	67,454	15,848	482	83,784
S.A. (b)	2,181	6,008	266	8,455	5,226	12,254	314	17,794
W.A.	11,726	5,078	149	16,953	22,188	9,763	283	32,234
TAS.	755	2,313	161	3,229	1,378	4,482	377	6,237
TOTAL:	65,502	58,765	1,261	125,528	128,920	109,171	2,160	240,251

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

4. BENEFITS DISCONTINUED.

(i) Duration: The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the 9,176 cases of benefit discontinued during August, 1946, is shown in the following table:-

DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING AUGUST, 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Duration of Benefit	Unemployment			Sickness			TOTAL(a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
<u>Weeks</u>									
Less than 1	1,173	303	1,476	258	38	296	1,432	341	1,773
1 and under 2	1,611	611	2,222	402	70	472	3,017	681	2,698
2 " " 3	392	19	411	369	54	423	767	75	842
3 " " 4	270	9	279	304	62	366	585	71	656
4 " " 5	207	8	215	210	44	254	442	52	494
5 " " 9	469	12	481	510	96	606	984	110	1,094
9 " " 13	327	9	336	245	59	304	574	69	643
13 and over	460	12	472	397	103	500	858	118	976
TOTAL:	4,909	983	5,892	2,695	526	3,221	7,659	1,517	9,176

(a) Includes Special Benefits (55 males, 8 females, 63 persons).

Of the 9,176 benefits discontinued during August, 1946, 2,713 (30 per cent.) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 3,207 (35 per cent.) for four weeks and over, 3,863 (42 per cent.) for three weeks and over, 4,705 (51 per cent.) for two weeks and over, 7,403 (81 per cent.) for one week and over, whilst 1,773 (19 per cent.) received benefit for less than one week.

Average duration of unemployment benefits discontinued was shorter than that of sickness. Twenty-five per cent. of unemployment and 9 per cent. of sickness cases were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, whilst for durations of less than three weeks the percentages were 70 and 37 per cent. respectively.

(ii) Reasons for Cessation: Of the 5,892 cases of unemployment benefit terminated during August, 1946, 5,620 (95.4 per cent.) secured employment or failed to report (which in most cases means that the beneficiary has resumed employment without advising the Department of Social Services), 129 (2.2 per cent.) transferred to Sickness Benefit, or to another district and 40 (0.7 per cent.) transferred to Rehabilitation Allowance.

2,779

Of the 3,221 cases of sickness benefit terminated, (86.3 per cent.) recovered from their illness and presumably resumed employment, 152 (4.7 per cent.) transferred to Unemployment Benefit or to another district, 148 (4.6 per cent.) were classified as permanently incapacitated, which in practically every case means that they were transferred to Invalid Pension, and 47 (1.5 per cent.) died.

5. PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF AUGUST, 1946.

TOTAL PERSONS.

(i) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment: The proportion of persons on benefit at 31st August, 1946, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 79 per 10,000, comprising 40 unemployment, 38 sickness and 1 special cases per 10,000.

The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 31ST AUGUST, 1946 PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA.

Sex	Proportion	No. on benefit per 10,000 in employment				Total
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special		
Males ..	per 10,000 males	53	44	-	97	
Females ..	per 10,000 females	7	25	2	34	
Persons ..	per 10,000 persons	40	38	1	79	

(ii) State Totals: The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 31st August, 1946:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 31ST AUGUST, 1946 : STATES.

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
N.S.W. (a)	1,994	144	2,838	625	9	34	4,841	803	5,644
VIC.	821	17	1,891	534	4	25	2,716	576	3,292
QLD.	3,702	250	908	158	5	22	4,615	430	5,045
S.A. (b)	372	7	754	127	7	7	1,133	141	1,274
W.A.	1,955	65	601	192	14	10	2,570	267	2,837
TAS.	147	2	344	75	3	28	494	105	599
TOTAL:	8,991	485	7,336	1,711	42	126	16,369	2,322	18,691

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) Ages: Distribution of beneficiaries at 31st August, 1946, according to age groups is shown in the following table:-

GROUPED AGE - PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 31ST AUGUST, 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Grouped Age (as at 31st Dec., 1946)	Unemployment			Sickness			Total (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
16 - 19 years	348	126	474	418	343	761	768	480	1,248
20 - 24 "	765	183	948	579	453	1,032	1,347	645	1,992
25 - 29 "	873	58	931	565	184	749	1,438	248	1,686
30 - 34 "	913	32	945	679	151	830	1,593	195	1,788
35 - 39 "	825	26	851	693	132	825	1,518	173	1,691
40 - 44 "	958	20	978	737	119	856	1,695	155	1,850
45 - 49 "	984	18	1,002	829	152	981	1,813	192	2,005
50 - 54 "	1,028	13	1,041	893	102	995	1,921	135	2,056
55 - 59 "	1,103	9	1,112	1,034	72	1,106	2,142	95	2,237
60 - 64 "	1,194	-	1,194	909	3	912	2,134	4	2,138
TOTAL:	8,991	485	9,476	7,336	1,711	9,047	16,369	2,322	18,691

(a) Includes Special Benefits (42 males, 126 females, 168 persons.)

The above table shows that the incidence of unemployment and sickness amongst males is greater in the higher age groups, 59 per cent. of the unemployment and 60 per cent. of the sickness cases occurring in ages of 40 years and over. The decline in numbers of females over the age of 24 years is due to the smaller numbers in employment in these groups, through large numbers quitting their employment on marriage.

6. UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING AUGUST AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF AUGUST

(i) Cause of Unemployment: The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment as stated by beneficiaries admitted to benefit during August, 1946 and by those who were on benefit at 31st August, 1946:-

CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING AUGUST, 1946 - AUSTRALIA

Cause of Unemployment	Admitted during August, 1946			On benefit at 31st August, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Discharged for disciplinary reasons ..	39	-	39	104	4	108
Discharged for other reasons -						
Inefficiency, including medical unfitness ..	184	6	190	862	36	898
Retrenchment, including closing of establishment ..	579	23	602	1,257	56	1,313
Replaced by reinstated ex-service personnel, etc., relieving worker only ..	253	18	271	708	48	756
Other discharges, including inadequately defined ..	40	1	41	89	1	90
Laid-off owing to -						
Power rationing ..	2,092	876	2,968	258	61	319
Shortage of materials ..	239	9	248	430	9	439
Strikes, lock-outs within the same establishment ..	108	1	109	260	15	275
Seasonal work ..	132	-	132	950	85	1,035
Casual work ..	387	9	396	729	7	736
Other reasons, including inadequately defined ..	148	4	152	110	9	119
Inadequately defined ..	-	-	-	1,327	26	1,353
Quitted -						
Medical unfitness, work too heavy ..	327	24	351	553	41	594
Other quits, including inadequately defined ..	209	19	228	582	55	637
Not Previously Employed -						
Employers, workers on own account ..	95	2	97	154	4	158
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work ..	296	9	305	601	11	612
Other ..	5	5	10	17	17	34
TOTAL:	5,133	1,006	6,139	8,991	485	9,476

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employer, the broad distinction being that a discharge is final and there is no likelihood of the person being re-engaged, at least in the near future. A lay-off is a separation of a temporary nature with the idea that the job will be available again for the employee as soon as circumstances permit.

Quits are separations which take place on the initiative of the employee.

This classification was adopted as from 1st July, 1946. Many benefits admitted prior to this date could not be allocated to either discharges or lay-offs because of an inadequate reason being stated. They have been included under the head "inadequately defined". The numbers under this head will diminish as these benefits are discontinued.

Practically all of the power rationing cases shown as admitted to benefit in the above table relate to Queensland and are delayed advices which should have been included in July, 1946.

(ii) Industrial Groups: In the following statement is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups, of those who were in receipt of unemployment benefits at 31st August, 1946. For comparison, figures at 31st July are added.

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AT 31ST AUGUST, 1946
AND 31ST JULY, 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	On benefit at 31st July, 1946			On benefit at 31st August, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying ..	838	4	842	747	4	751
Other Primary Production ..	109	-	109	140	-	140
Coal Mining ..	34	-	34	103	-	103
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	190	-	190	170	-	170
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal-working, including shipbuilding ..	874	20	894	889	17	906
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	205	6	211	220	5	225
Textiles and articles of dress ..	119	54	173	117	52	169
Food, drink and tobacco ..	1,822	143	1,965	1,558	137	1,695
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	162	5	167	205	3	208
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	453	9	462	497	10	507
Building and Construction ..	693	-	693	782	-	782
Transport and Communication ..	685	15	700	670	17	687
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	934	50	984	976	56	1,032
Finance and property ..	53	4	57	55	3	58
Public Administration and Professional ..	822	38	860	928	41	969
Personal and Domestic Service ..	472	93	565	503	112	615
Other ..	302	21	323	431	28	459
TOTAL:	8,767	462	9,229	8,991	485	9,476

The States with the largest numbers of males in receipt of unemployment benefit at 31st August, 1946, in the principal industrial groups were:-

Food, etc. Factories: (Cwlth. 1,558 males) - Qld. 1,155, N.S.W. 134, W.A. 111, Vic. 108.

Wholesale and Retail Trade: (976) - Qld. 357, W.A. 307, N.S.W. 174.

Public Administration, etc.: (928) - Qld. 463, N.S.W. 186, W.A. 167.

Founding, engineering, etc.: (889) - N.S.W. 368, W.A. 193, Qld. 147.

Building and Construction: (782) - Qld. 326, N.S.W. 178, W.A. 164.

Agriculture, Pastoral, etc.: (747) - Qld. 289, N.S.W. 231.

Transport: (670) - Qld. 317, W.A. 142, N.S.W. 108.

(iii) Occupation Groups: Persons on Unemployment Benefit at 31st August, 1946, are classified according to principal groups of occupation in the following table:-

OCCUPATION GROUPS - PERSONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT
AT 31ST AUGUST, 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Occupation Group		Males	Females	Persons
Rural, Fishing and Hunting Occupations -				
Farming and Pastoral ..	..	701	2	703
Other ..	..	153	-	153
Professional and Semi-Professional Occupations ..	..	46	12	58
Administrative, Commercial and Clerical Occupations -				
Indoor Clerical ..	..	407	55	462
Indoor Selling Activities ..	..	311	54	365
Other ..	..	169	3	172
Skilled Manual Workers -				
Building and Constructional ..	..	211	-	211
Metal Trades ..	..	365	2	367
Other ..	..	240	11	251
Manual Workers not classified according to skill -				
Building and Constructional ..	..	264	-	264
Metal Trades ..	..	322	7	329
Food, Drink and Tobacco Trades ..	..	651	107	758
Car, Truck, etc. Drivers ..	..	349	-	349
Packers, Storemen and Wrappers ..	..	429	16	445
Other ..	..	567	61	628
Unskilled Manual Workers -				
Building and Constructional ..	..	251	-	251
Metal Trades ..	..	71	-	71
Wharf Labourers ..	..	158	-	158
Labourers (undefined) ..	..	1,898	7	1,905
Other ..	..	255	11	266
Protective Service Occupations (Watchmen, etc.) ..	..	161	-	161
Other Service Occupations -				
Hotel, Boarding House and Tea-room ..	..	295	66	361
Caretaking and Cleaning ..	..	196	5	201
Other ..	..	69	10	79
Private Domestic Occupations ..	..	42	31	73
Occupation Not Stated ..	..	410	25	435
<u>TOTAL:</u>		8,991	485	9,476

(iv) Metropolitan and Other: Unemployment benefits granted during August, 1946, and those current at 31st August, 1946, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN
AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) - STATES.

State	Claims admitted during August, 1946				On Benefit at 31st August, 1946			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b)	211	5	550	38	521	21	1,473	123
VIC.	115	7	244	2	246	10	575	7
QLD.	2,064	818	869	107	1,365	11	2,337	239
S.A. (c)	75	1	37	-	315	6	57	1
W.A.	721	25	202	3	1,692	56	264	9
TAS.	35	-	10	-	121	1	26	1
<u>TOTAL:</u>	3,221	856	1,912	150	4,260	105	4,732	386

(a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital City and Suburban district offices of the Departments of Social Services or Labour and National Service (Employment Service). In N.S.W., Liverpool is included in "Other". In S.A., Port Adelaide and in W.A., Fremantle and Midland Junction are included in Metropolitan.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes Northern Territory.

7. SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING AUGUST AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF AUGUST.

(i) Nature of Sickness: The following table shows the principal types of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, of beneficiaries admitted to Benefit during August, 1946 and of those on benefit at 31st August, 1946:-

NATURE OF SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC., DURING AUGUST, 1946.

Nature of Sickness	Claims admitted during August, 1946			On benefit at 31st August, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	242	49	291	470	134	604
Cancer	26	7	33	62	12	74
Other Tumours	18	12	30	47	49	96
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases	215	44	259	598	164	762
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming organs	16	9	25	59	37	96
Nervous System and Sense Organs	268	89	357	685	225	910
Circulatory System	261	34	295	904	105	1,009
Respiratory System	401	66	467	825	134	959
Digestive System	632	114	746	1,268	231	1,499
Genito-Urinary System	125	51	176	317	104	421
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc.	168	31	199	316	75	391
Skin and Cellular Tissue	77	19	96	203	39	242
Bones and Organs of Movement						
Other Diseases (including Ill-defined Conditions)	45	18	63	112	52	164
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures	321	29	350	903	89	992
Other Injuries, etc.	303	18	321	487	50	537
Operations (original disability not stated)	21	12	33	49	28	77
Other	17	1	18	31	9	40
TOTAL:	3,156	679	3,835	7,336	1,711	9,047

The principal diseases and injuries included in the above types of sickness as at 31st August, 1946, were:-

Infective and parasitic diseases - tuberculosis (155 males, 62 females), influenza (122, 19); rheumatism, etc. - acute rheumatic fever (92, 40), chronic rheumatism and other rheumatic diseases (348, 64), rheumatism not specified as acute or chronic (72, 15); diseases of the nervous system, etc. - mental disorders and deficiency (263, 149), neuritis (143, 24), diseases of the organs of vision (94, 15); diseases of the circulatory system - diseases of the myocardium (213, 9), diseases of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris (166, 2), other heart diseases (241, 31), varices (97, 11), idiopathic high blood pressure (101, 25); diseases of the respiratory system - bronchitis (227, 37), inflammatory diseases of the lung and pleura (pneumonia, pleurisy, etc.) (312, 45), asthma (100, 20); diseases of the digestive system - ulcer of stomach (198, 13), ulcer of duodenum (160, 8), appendicitis (284, 102), hernia (239, 8), diseases of the gall bladder and bile ducts (79, 31); diseases of the genito-urinary system - diseases of the kidneys and ureters (185, 42), diseases of the genital organs (not specified as venereal) (76, 59); fractures - of the upper limbs (216, 22), of the lower limbs (482, 51); other injuries - head injuries (60, 5), open wounds, lacerations, etc. (111, 8), sprains (76, 9).

(ii) Industrial Groups: The distribution, according to main industrial groups of those in receipt of sickness benefits at 31st August, 1946, is shown in the next table. For comparison figures at 31st July are added.

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT AT 31ST AUGUST
AND 31ST JULY, 1946 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	On benefit at 31st July, 1946			On benefit at 31st August, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	569	11	580	576	13	589
Other Primary Production ..	147	1	148	170	1	171
Coal Mining ..	294	-	294	333	-	333
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	127	-	127	118	-	118
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metalworking, including shipbuilding ..	1,237	64	1,301	1,327	75	1,402
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	290	7	297	305	9	314
Textiles and articles of dress ..	250	305	555	272	318	590
Food, drink and tobacco ..	467	120	587	494	124	618
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	235	9	244	242	10	252
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	578	101	679	633	108	741
Building and Construction ..	656	1	657	694	1	695
Transport and Communication ..	632	49	681	704	53	757
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	620	238	858	653	260	913
Finance and property ..	44	20	64	47	24	71
Public Administration and Professional ..	391	263	654	415	284	699
Personal and Domestic Service ..	309	365	674	325	427	752
Other ..	29	4	33	28	4	32
TOTAL:	6,875	1,558	8,433	7,336	1,711	9,047

(iii) Metropolitan and Other: Sickness benefits granted during August, 1946, and those current at 31st August, 1946, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF SICKNESS BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN
AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) - STATES.

State	Claims admitted during August, 1946				On benefit at 31st August, 1946			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b)	490	139	643	70	1,423	433	1,415	192
VIC.	518	168	288	61	1,223	398	668	136
QLD.	116	9	218	33	403	75	505	83
S.A. (c)	219	46	143	19	531	100	223	25
W.A.	225	82	139	28	415	158	186	34
TAS.	54	12	103	12	168	41	176	34
TOTAL:	1,622	456	1,534	223	4,163	1,205	3,173	504

(a) See footnote to Table 6(iv). (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

ROLAND WILSON

COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.